List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 18 (Cancelled).

19. (New) A method for maintaining a production installation having a plurality of field devices (F1, F2, F3), which <u>are</u> partly, or ~~all~~ <u>completely</u>, ~~are~~ connected over a data bus D with a control system L, comprising the steps of:

[[a)]]   electronically registering the field devices (F1, F2, F3) in a manufacturer database (HG-DB) with a manufacturer-specific identification and manufacturer-specific information relevant for the maintaining;

[[b)]]   electronically registering the field devices in a customer database (IB-DB) with a customer-specific identification and customer-specific information; and

[[c)]]   electronically querying the two databases (HG-DB and IB-HG) on the basis of maintenance criteria.

20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the manufacturer-specific identification is the serial number of the field device (F1, F2, F3).

21. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
the customer-specific identification is the tag number of the field device (F1, F2, F3).

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the maintenance criteria include corrective maintenance, replacement or preventive maintenance.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the database querying yields a maintenance plan.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein:

the maintenance plan is stored in a maintenance database and every separate point of the maintenance plan is confirmed or modified by the customer before the storing.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the manufacturer database (HG-DB) also includes foreign devices of other manufacturers.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein:

the manufacturer database (HG-DB), or portions thereof, come from Internet databases.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein :

the time required for the maintenance of the field devices (F1, F2, F3) is stored in said manufacturer database (HG-DB) and from this information, combined with the maintenance plan, projected costs of maintenance work are calculated.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

already-experienced, actual expenses of the maintenance work for the field devices (F1, F2, F3) are stored in said customer database (IB-DB) and a projected versus actual cost comparison is produced for the maintenance plan.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the manufacturer database (HG-DB) contains replacement part information and the database querying determines the optimal replacement part and consumable materials inventory for the chosen maintenance strategy.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the customer database (IB-DB) is supplemented and modified by the operator itself of the production installation, via Internet access.

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein:

the operator receives automatically and via Internet a maintenance plan adapted to a changed inventory of field devices (F1, F2, F3) or changed requirements for the maintenance strategy.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

device type managers (DTMs) are stored in said manufacturer database (HG-DB) and are included in the maintenance plan in execution specifications intended for the maintenance personnel.

33. (New) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein:

electronic aids used for the maintenance are automatically adjusted by the maintenance plan.

34. (New) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

the maintenance plan represents the control file for asset management systems.

35. (New) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein:

control files for various asset management systems are produced by controlling the device type managers (DTMs).

36.   (New)   The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

a plurality of manufacturers support manufacturer databases (HG-DB) in the Internet and, for each device in an installation, the appropriate link to the corresponding Internet address of the manufacturer database (HG-DB) is contained in the device type manager (DTM - e.g. FDT Tool) of the particular device.